Hon. J. W. Dickinson's Lecture.
(The third reported.)

The Lecture for Saturday, April 23d, in the course on Science Teaching, was given by Hon. J. W. Dickinson, of the State Board of Education, on “Teaching Science in Public Schools.”

His text was “The Leaf is Green.” From this simple sentence he brought out the main points in an education. First, the sight of a leaf awakens an idea, which is the beginning of knowledge. Then the act of comparison of ideas is a thought; and so our thoughts never go beyond our ideas. The consciousness of idea to thought is knowledge. Those states of mind awakened by description are information; therefore information cannot go beyond knowledge.

In teaching science, the first thing to do is to teach for a name; show an object that will awaken an idea of the whole. The next thing is to teach for a description; and in so doing the pupil observes, then analyses, and brings his ideas into language. The definition of language is “a faculty of the mind by which it associates ideas with their proper signs.” The third point is to teach for a definition. This latter point belongs to scientific knowledge, while the first two relate to elementary knowledge. Names and descriptions which are facts should be taught in the public schools, and not in a scientific institution. In the Institute the teachers are obliged to teach facts because the pupils did not learn them in the lower schools.

Four principles of teaching are as follows: First, it is a law of the mind which requires the object of its knowledge to be in its presence. An object is in our presence when it holds such relation as to affect us; second, a part is not a part till the mind has seen the whole; third, elementary knowledge must be taught before scientific knowledge; fourth, pupils must do the work of observation themselves. The great aim of science teaching in the public schools is to train the power of observation.

Communications.
The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

To the Editors of The Tech:

The “Technique” Board of Editors for the Class of ’94, in beginning their work, wish to say that they realize the responsibility placed upon them. It is their task to produce a book which shall fully represent the social side of student life at the Institute. Naturally enough, since the “Technique” is produced each year by successive Junior classes, it is the ambition of each new board to produce something superior to anything before brought out. We are no exception to this general rule. We freely state that it is our object and purpose to reach a standard of work even higher than has yet been attained by any of our predecessors. This is our end and aim, and it remains to be seen how well we accomplish it.

The “Technique,” although it is edited and published by the Junior Class alone, represents all the students in Technology, and therefore should contain the best work of the whole school. As is to be expected, the great work comes upon the “Technique” editors; but that is no reason why we might not expect and receive the hearty co-operation of all, in our task of producing this representative book. Not only do we solicit drawings, poems, and grinds, but we are open to suggestions as well. We want new, original ideas, which shall brighten up and refresh the whole production. The more minds we have at work the more ideas will naturally come out. We ask for the help of all. Productions and communications of all kinds may be placed in the “Technique” Box, or may be handed to any of the editors. Such contributions, in order to be received, should bear the name of the writer and the year of his class.

In the fall there will probably be prizes offered as heretofore for competitive work in different branches. We hope we may have a good number of productions to choose from, and speak of it thus early to give all ample time to compete. Begin early, and avoid the rush.

To ’94, our classmates, we can only say that we will do our best to gain their approval, and earnestly ask for their help, unitedly and individually. It is for the interest of our class to have a good “Technique,” and the duty of every ’94 man to do all in his power to make it a great success.

S. H. B.